

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as set forth below.

1. (currently amended) A method for the prevention or treatment of a neurodegenerative condition comprising administering peripherally to a mammal an effective non-toxic amount of EPO for the protection of an excitable tissue.
2. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said condition is the result of neurodegenerative disease.
3. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said excitable tissue is central nervous system tissue or peripheral nervous system tissue.
4. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said administration comprises oral, topical, intraluminal or by inhalation or parenteral administration.
5. (original) The method of Claim 4 wherein said parenteral administration is intravenous, intraarterial, subcutaneous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, submucosal or intradermal.
6. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said administration is acute or chronic.
8. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said EPO is administered at a dose greater than the dose necessary to maximally stimulate erythropoiesis.
9. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said EPO is a recombinant form thereof.

- 2 -
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